

# Supporting Pediatric Practices with Cooperative Extension Parenting Resources

Karen DeBord, Ph.D., Professor, Extension Specialist, North Carolina State University, karen\_debord@ncsu.edu

## Background

- Pediatricians in North Carolina report that issues related to social development and behavior absorb an inordinate amount of time during child check-ups.
- One in five children are estimated to be suffering from social or emotional problems. (Surgeon General's report, Department of Health and Human Services, 1999)
- Infants experience mental health issues. Their mental health status directly correlates with the quality of the parent-infant relationship (Huff, 2004).
- What young children learn and what they expect from themselves and others are deeply affected by their relationships with parents, the behavior of parents, and the environment of the homes in which they live. (Bradley et al., 1988; Collins and Laursen, 1999; Dunn, J., 1993; Hartup and Rubin, 1986; Maccoby and Martin, 1983).



- Positive developmental interactions with parents improve young children's social competence and their overall capacity to learn (Shonkoff & Phillips, 2000).
- 54% of parents want more information on how they can help their young child learn (Shonkoff & Phillips, 2000).

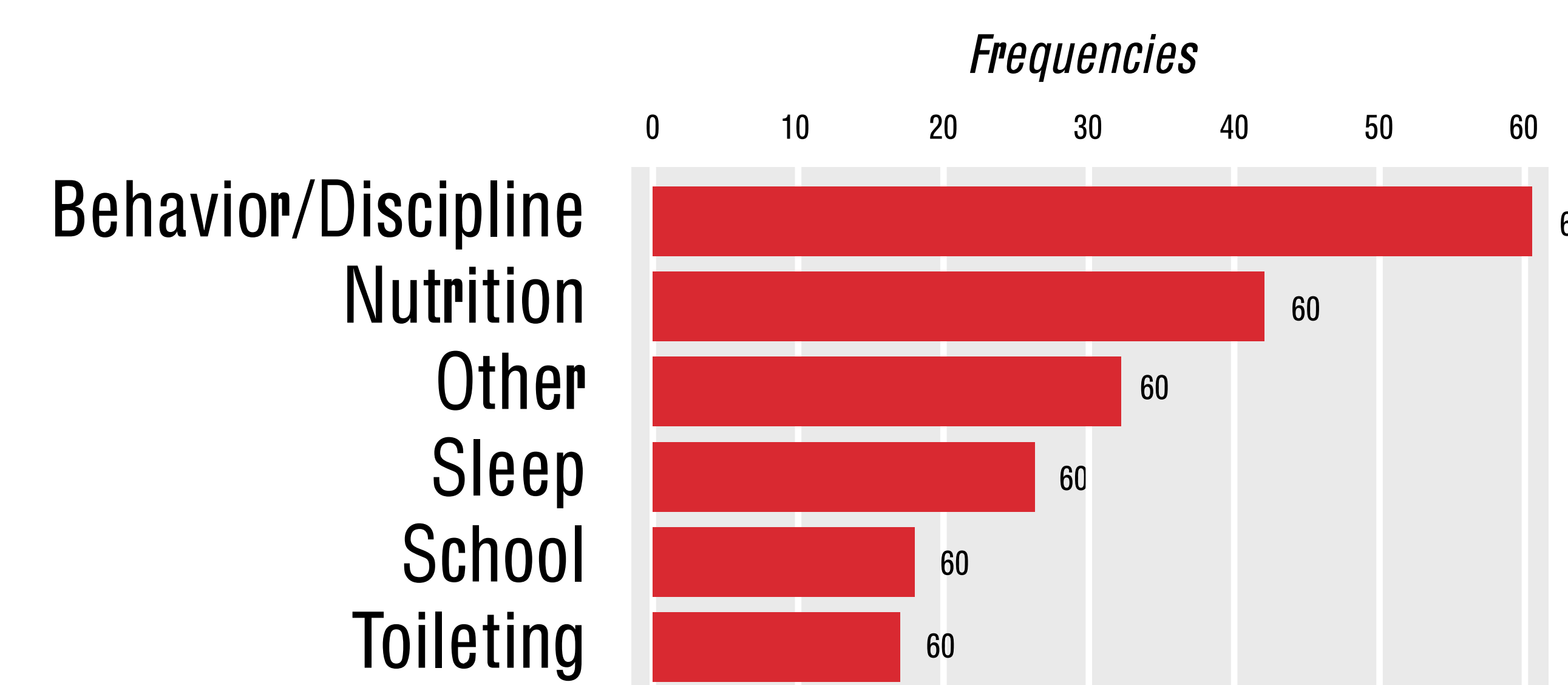
## Study Objectives

- Assess parents' primary areas of concern for their child's well-being
- Assess the type of information physicians would like to share with parents outside of the child's physical well-being.

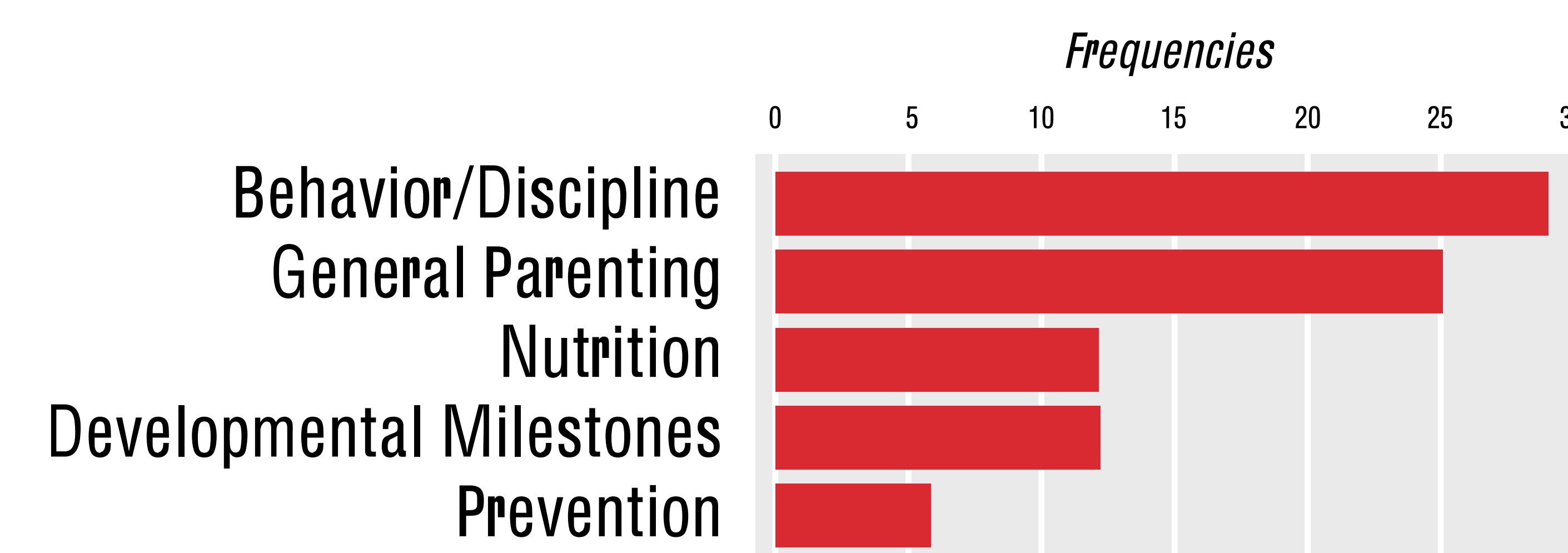
## Method

- Online survey of pediatricians, 4 open-ended questions, N=79  
Majority of the participants had at least 6 years in practice (87%).

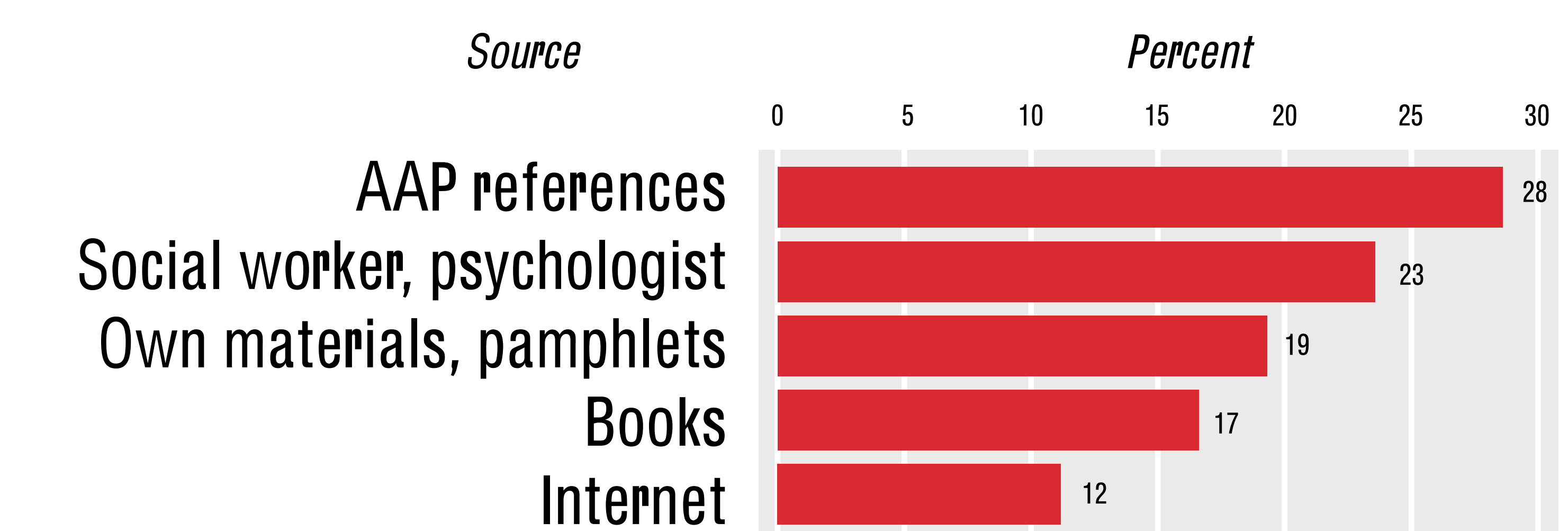
## Primary issues of concern for parents:



## Primary information pediatricians want to share with parents:



## Sources of information used for information referral for parents:



## Next steps:

- Pilot study in 4 rural counties
- Alamance, Dare, Catawba, Pamlico
- Partnering with Office of Rural Health to identify Pediatric practices
- Cooperative Extension educator
- Pre- assessment
- Post-assessment
- Educational intervention in partnership with pediatrician